



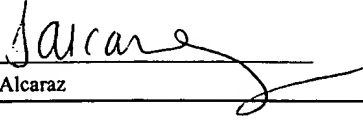
PATENT
Docket No. 223002010005

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Tamara Alcaraz

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of:

Michael HOUGHTON et al.

Serial No.: 09/884,456

Filing Date: June 18, 2001

For: HEPATITIS C VIRUS PROTEASE

Examiner: To Be Assigned

Group Art Unit: 1652

COPY

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Box Missing Parts
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Preliminary to examination of the above-referenced application, please amend the specification as follows: